

Sheriff Gary Del Re



Undersheriff Gary Stryker

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF ANNOUNCES ARREST IN BEATING

WAUKEGAN, IL. – Lake County Sheriff Gary Del Re today announced the arrest of a 28 year old Spring Grove man in the August 22, 2003 beating of a 30 year old female Spring Grove resident.

Charged in the beating was James W. Kawell of 39151 Jackson Drive, Apartment #1 in Spring Grove, IL. Kawell has been charged with two counts of Attempted Murder, six counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery and two counts of Attempted Heinous Battery.

The victim, the girlfriend of Kawell, was reportedly beaten over a three hour period in the apartment they shared. It is alleged Kawell beat the victim with a metal chair, a metal broomstick, and he also repeatedly punched and kicked the victim. Kawell also reportedly sprayed lighter fluid on the victim and attempted to light her on fire.

The beating was stopped by a neighbor who knocked on the door after hearing the attack. The neighbor, upon seeing the victim, offered to drive Kawell and the victim to the Northern Illinois Medical Center in McHenry, IL, so the victim could be treated. Arriving at the hospital, Kawell reportedly remained in the neighbors car. It was at this time hospital security was told the person responsible for beating the victim was in the car in the parking lot. In turn, City of McHenry Police were called to the scene and they detained Kawell for Lake County Sheriff's Office Deputies. The victim is still hospitalized.

Kawell is currently being held in the Lake County Correctional Facility with his bond set at \$900,000.00. Kawell's next court appearance is scheduled for September 3, 2003 in courtroom C120.